

Progress of the Siege of Vicksburg.
[Correspondence of the Cincinnati Gazette.]

WALLNUT HILLS, VICKSBURG, Miss., June 2.—There is really nothing transpiring which the public has any right to know at present. Everything has settled down into that dull, dreary monotony, which was at once the curse and the death of many during the siege of Vicksburg last summer. The weather is dreadfully hot, and its enervating effects are already seen in the faces and forms of the stoutest men. Since the brilliant occupancy of the rear of Vicksburg on the 18th of May, the army has been indulging in pardonable platitudes about the taking of the city; but I should be guilty of withholding the truth if I failed to state that as time drags along heavily withal, the task seems to increase in magnitude. Indeed "when we take Vicksburg" begins to sound like a joke; but like everything else more difficult of solution, it has its pros and cons. We have been two weeks knocking at the gates of Vicksburg; we have tried to hammer them down by heavy artillery, and still they are closed.

The labor performed by our troops on the "gradual approach" is immense. Long tiers of rifle-pits, strong field works for siege guns, and covered ways surround the enemy, and frown upon him all along our lines. Our artillerymen wake up the gentlemen of the Confederate States, at divers and sundry times during the nights, but no reply is made to our guns. What between the shell from our batteries and the thirteen-inchers from the mortars, a comfortable repose in the city must be a matter of extreme uncertainty, but the occupants hold out with a fortitude and unconcern, as far as results can be seen, truly admirable. Troops are arriving from above by every boat, which is very significant. General Ellett's marine brigade arrived down a few days ago, and after lying a few hours at Haines' Bluff, steamed off for other fields of operation. Patience is a great virtue, and none of us can have too much of it, if it is a good thing.

A Memphis letter of the 1st inst., to the St. Louis Republican, says:

"General Grant issued an order on the 26th, which was last Tuesday, that the Army of the Tennessee would rest, and every advantage, during the cessation of hostilities, was recommended to be taken to ascertain the position of the Confederates so that when the battle again commenced his forces would have gained, as far as possible, the information so desirable to success. I have seen and read the order, and hence I know what I am writing about. Gen. Grant, if that order be worth the paper which it is written on will make no further attack, at least at present, or rather direct assault, on the enemy's works all along the line."

The Washington Correspondent of the Baltimore Sun says:—"A letter has been received from Admiral Porter, bearing witness to the desperate fighting qualities of General Grant's army. He says that Vicksburg is as strong as Sebastapol, and this judgment is based upon actual observation there after the taking of the Malakoff. Porter supplies his fleet below Vicksburg by a wagon road across the neck of land before that place, and the base of supplies for the army is Haines' Bluff, some ten miles up the Yazoo from its confluence with the Mississippi. Several mortar vessels occupy positions under bluffs above and below Vicksburg, from whence they keep up a bombardment by night and by day. It is supposed that the Confederates are now driven to their last line of defense."

The military executions which were to have taken place on Johnson's Island, Ohio, on the 6th instant, were indefinitely postponed by order of the President.

Major Gen. Trimble of the Confederate service has been appointed to the command of the Confederate troops in the department of Northern Virginia, and has issued an address inviting citizens of Maryland join to his forces.

The Democratic State Convention at Columbus, Ohio, have unanimously nominated C. L. Vallandigham for Governor, and ex-U. S. Senator Pugh as a candidate for Lieutenant Governor. The resolutions adopted denounce the arrest and banishment of Mr. Vallandigham, and provide for the appointment of a committee to demand his restoration. Mr. Pugh made a fiery speech, spurning and defying Gen. Burnside's Order No. 38.

Reliable news of the occupation of Puebla by the French has reached Havana. The city was given up by the Mexicans, its defenders being without food or ammunition, having eaten even all their mules and cavalry horses before the surrender. Advices from Vera Cruz report the escape of Gens. Ortega, La-Lave and Mendez, and eight more of the principal chiefs. Over three hundred minor officers and two thousand prisoners from the French convoy are en route to Orizaba.

The prosecution of Major Constable, formerly Acting Provost Marshal of Baltimore, charged with fraudulently retaining about three thousand dollars belonging to Confederate prisoners then under his charge, was disposed of by a technical error being discovered in the indictment. The Court expressed no opinion on the merits of the case.

On reaching the Sing Sing prison, ex-Col. D'Utassy was duly clothed in the garb of the establishment and put to work. He had his head shaved in New York in preference to waiting his arrival at his destination, where he would have undergone the operation at the hands of the prison barber.

The captain of the schooner Mary Harris, from Nassau, reports the arrival of the Confederate steamer Margaret and Jesse, from Charleston, with a cargo of cotton, etc. She was chased by the gunboat Rhode Island, and run ashore near Elenthora, on the 2d inst.—The Rhode Island fired ten shots into and through her. She was abandoned by the crew, and wreckers subsequently got her off, and took her into Nassau. The Nassau papers are almost frantic over this, which they term an outrage on the Federal part.

General Couch has assumed the command of the Department of the Susquehanna. He summonses, for the defence of the State, all citizens between the ages of eighteen and sixty, to organize army corps—embracing cavalry, infantry, and artillery—to serve during the pleasure of the President or the continuance of the war. When not required in active service to defend the department, they will be returned to their homes, subject, however, to the call of the Commanding General.

A letter from West Point states, as an example of the efficiency of the graduating class of cadets, that they dismount a cannon and separate the parts of the carriage, and remount and reunite them and fire the gun in twenty-six seconds.

In Prussia matters have come to a crisis.—The King has refused to receive a delegation from the Chamber which was to present the address to the Crown, and when the address was forwarded to him by letter, he sent a message to the Chamber, not countersigned by any minister, in which he violently denounces the Chamber and endorses the action of the ministers. On the same day, May 27, the Chambers were closed.

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